

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-14 are pending in the application, with 1, 6, and 10 being the independent claims. No claims are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new claims 6, 7, and 10 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-5 and 9-14.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner contends that as to claims 6-8, the claimed invention is implemented as functional descriptive material. The Examiner notes that when functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases. Applicants have amended claims 6-8 such that the computer program product is recorded on a computer-readable medium. Thus, claims 6-8 are directed to statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 6-8 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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